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PATENT DOCKET ADMINISTRATION RE/R11/A109
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EXAMINER	
SHANG, ANNAN Q	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2623	

DATE MAILED: 06/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/677,691	ARSENAULT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Annan Q. Shang	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *27 March 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-7,9-15,17-23,25-31,33-39,41-47 and 49* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-7,9-15,17-23,25-31,33-39,41-47 and 49* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

With respect to claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, 25-31, 33-39, 41-47 and 49 rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by **Eyer et al (6,401,242)**, applicant argues that Eyer fails to teach where a second guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second guide information. However as discussed in the office action below, Eyer further discloses where the second guide includes region ID and name which identifies the region transmitting the second program guide information. Hence it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Eyer to provide data identifying a service network transmitting the second program guide to enable the head end system or receiving station to identify and manage the EPGs that are received from the various EPG sources or service network as desired. The amendment to all the independent claims necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection discussed below. This office action is made final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7, 9-15, 17-23, 25-31, 33-39, 41-47 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Eyer et al (6,401,242)**.

As to claim 1, note the **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, disclose method and apparatus for delivering an Interactive Program Guide (IPG) data (global and local programming services) to integrated receiver-decoders (IRDs) in a decoder population via a cable or satellite network and further disclose in a broadcasting system having a first service network (National or Global Network) broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program guide information (National or Global IPG) describing at least a portion of the first set of program material, and second service network (Regional or Local Network) broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide (Regional or Local IPG) describing at least a portion of the second set of program material, where the first broadcast signal (National or Global) and the second broadcast signal (Regional or Local) each includes a service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, a method of providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiving station receiving the first signal, comprising the steps of:

the claimed "mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal" is met by IPG Translator (IPG-Trans) 225 (figs. 1, 4, col. 5, lines 44-67 and col. 8, lines 6-32), note that CATV 140 (col. 6, line 23-31) includes IPG-Trans 220 a headend system, which receives National or Global-IPG data "first program guide information" and Regional or Local-IPG data "second program guide information" and uses channel grouping criteria, such as common

source, field of interest, etc., (col. 6, lines 6-22 and col. 15, line 54-col. 16, line 3) to form Bundles "portion" of Global-IPG data and "portion" of Local-IPG data and maps portion of the Global-IPG and Local-IPG to service channels "first service channel" and "second service channel" (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11) of transport stream "first broadcast signal" (fig. 4, col. 10, lines 10-31, Bundles 400-415 and col. 12, line 31-col. 13, line 1+) and transmits the broadcast signal to IRDs 130 "receiving station," that allows the IRDs 130 to recover only IPG-data for its region (col. 8, lines 57-63), note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all logically offset by the difference between assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11), Furthermore Global-IPG and Local-IPG data are offset by duplicative channels (col. 10, lines 33-38), by a 24-bit number (col. 15, line 66-col. 16, line 3) and also by gaps in the program schedules (col. 18, lines 15-44); and

Eyer, further teaches where the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between data and IRD 130 "receiver station" configuration value (col. 6, line 65-col. 7, line 15 and col. 10, lines 21-48, but fails to explicitly teach where second guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second guide information.

However, Eyer further teaches region ID and name which identifies the region transmitting the second program guide information.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Eyer to provide data identifying a service network transmitting the second program guide to enable the head end system or receiving station to identify and manage the EPGs that are received from the various EPG sources or service network as desired.

As to claim 2, Eyer further discloses where Local-IPG service channel is logically offset by an amount specified in Global-IPG data (col. 16, lines 37-55).

As to claim 3, Eyer further discloses where Bundles of the Local-IPG data is transmitted at a different rate than the Global-IPG data (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 7), note the Trickle Bundle parameter, specifies the frequency at which each bundle are transmitted in each transmission cycle.

As to claims 4 and 5, Eyer further discloses where the first program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a first time period, and the second program guide information describes program material to be broadcast during a second time period and where the second time is of different length than the first time period (col. 18, line 50-col. 19, line 8).

As to claim 6, Eyer further discloses where IRDs 130 receives the first signal and stores in RAM 340 or RAM 350, the Global-IPG data and the Local-IPG data for subsequent retrieval (fig. 3, col. 6, lines 38-67 and col. 9, lines 24-28 and lines 53-col. 10, line 9).

As to claim 7, Eyer further discloses where IRDs 130 merging the Global-IPG data and the Local-IPG data to produce a merged program guide, and retrieving the

merged program guide in response to a subscriber request (figs. 3, 4, col. 8, lines 39-67 and col. 10, lines 10-38).

As to claim 9, note the **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, disclose method and apparatus for delivering an Interactive Program Guide (IPG) data (global and local programming services) to integrated receiver-decoders (IRDs) in a decoder population via a cable or satellite network and further disclose in a broadcasting system having a first a first service network (National or Global Network) broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information (National or Global-IPG data) describing at least a portion of the first set of program material, and a second service network (Regional or Local Network) broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information (Regional or Local-IPG data) describing at least a portion of the second set of program material, where the first broadcast signal and second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, a method of obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information via the first signal, comprising the steps of:

the claimed "receiving the first signal..." is met by IRD 130 (fig. 1, 4, col. 5, lines 44-67, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38), which receives a data stream "first signal" of National or Global-IPG data "first program guide information" transmitted in Bundles "portion" on Global-IPG data service channel;

the claimed "a second service channel..." is met by Regional or Local-IPG data service channel, which transmits Bundles "portion" of Local-IPG data "second program

guide information" (col. 5, lines 44-67, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38) and presenting the Global-IPG data and the Local-IPG data to the subscriber (col. 8, lines 39-63), note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all logically offset by the difference between assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11), Furthermore Global-IPG and Local-IPG data are offset by duplicative channels (col. 10, lines 33-38), by a 24-bit number (col. 15, line 66-col. 16, line 3) and also by gaps in the program schedules (col. 18, lines 15-44).

Eyer, further teaches where the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between data and IRD 130 "receiver station" configuration value (col. 6, line 65-col. 7, line 15 and col. 10, lines 21-48, but fails to explicitly teach where second guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second guide information.

However, Eyer further teaches region ID and name which identifies the region transmitting the second program guide information.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Eyer to provide data identifying a service network transmitting the second program guide to enable the head end system or receiving station to identify and manage the EPGs that are received from the various EPG sources or service network as desired.

Claim 10 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

Claim 11 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 3.

Claim 12-13 is met as previously discussed with respect to claims 4 and 5.

Claim 14 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

Claim 15 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 7.

As to claim 17, note the **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, disclose method and apparatus for delivering an Interactive Program Guide (IPG) data (global and local programming services) to integrated receiver-decoders (IRDs) in a decoder population via a cable or satellite network and further disclose in a broadcasting system having a first a first service network (National or Global Network) broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information (National or Global-IPG data) describing at least a portion of the first set of program material, and a second service network (Regional or Local Network) broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information (Regional or Local-IPG data) describing at least a portion of the second set of program material, where the first broadcast signal and second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus of obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiver station (IRD 130) receiving the first signal, comprising:

the claimed "a program guide system for mapping at least a portion of the first guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal..." is met by is met by IPG Translator (IPG-Trans) 225 (figs. 1, 4, col. 5, lines 44-67 and col. 8, lines 6-

32), note that CATV 140 (col. 6, line 23-31) includes IPG-Trans 220 a headend system, which receives National or Global-IPG data "first program guide information" and Regional or Local-IPG data "second program guide information" and uses channel grouping criteria, such as common source, field of interest, etc., (col. 6, lines 6-22 and col. 15, line 54-col. 16, line 3) to form Bundles "portion" of Global-IPG data and "portion" of Local-IPG data and maps portion of the Global-IPG and Local-IPG to service channels "first service channel" and "second service channel" (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11) of transport stream "first broadcast signal" (fig. 4, col. 10, lines 10-31, Bundles 400-415 and col. 12, line 31-col. 13, line 1+) and the claimed "a transmitter..." is met by Transmitter 110 (fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 47-52), which transmits the broadcast signal to IRDs 130 "receiving station," that allows the IRDs 130 to recover only IPG-data for its region (col. 8, lines 57-63), note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all logically offset by the difference between assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11), Furthermore Global-IPG and Local-IPG data are offset by duplicative channels (col. 10, lines 33-38), by a 24-bit number (col. 15, line 66-col. 16, line 3) and also by gaps in the program schedules (col. 18, lines 15-44).

Eyer, further teaches where the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between data and IRD 130 "receiver station" configuration value (col. 6, line 65-col. 7, line 15 and col. 10, lines

21-48, but fails to explicitly teach where second guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second guide information.

However, Eyer further teaches region ID and name which identifies the region transmitting the second program guide information.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Eyer to provide data identifying a service network transmitting the second program guide to enable the head end system or receiving station to identify and manage the EPGs that are received from the various EPG sources or service network as desired.

Claim 18 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

Claim 19 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 3.

Claim 20-21 is met as previously discussed with respect to claims 4 and 5.

Claim 22 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

Claim 23 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 7.

As to claim 25, note the **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, disclose method and apparatus for delivering an Interactive Program Guide (IPG) data (global and local programming services) to integrated receiver-decoders (IRDs) in a decoder population via a cable or satellite network and further disclose in a broadcasting system having a first a first service network (National or Global Network) broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information (National or Global-IPG data) describing at least a portion of the first set of program material, and a second service network (Regional or Local Network) broadcasting a second signal

having a second set of program material and second program guide information (Regional or Local-IPG data) describing at least a portion of the second set of program material, where the first broadcast signal and second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information via the first signal, comprising the steps:

the claimed "a tuner for receiving the first signal..." is met by Data Receiver of IRD 130 (fig. 1, 4, col. 5, lines 44-67, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38), which includes a Tuner for receiving a data stream "first signal" of National or Global-IPG data "first program guide information" transmitted in Bundles "portion" on Global-IPG data service channel;

the claimed "a second service channel..." is met by Regional or Local-IPG data service channel, which transmits Bundles "portion" of Local-IPG data "second program guide information" (col. 5, lines 44-67, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38) and the claimed "a presentation device..." is met by Display 195 (figs. 1, 3, col. 7, lines 51-56 and col. 8, lines 39-46), which presents the Global-IPG data and the Local-IPG data to the subscriber (col. 8, lines 39-63), note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all logically offset by the difference between assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11), Furthermore Global-IPG and Local-IPG

data are offset by duplicative channels (col. 10, lines 33-38), by a 24-bit number (col. 15, line 66-col. 16, line 3) and also by gaps in the program schedules (col. 18, lines 15-44).

Eyer, further teaches where the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between data and IRD 130 "receiver station" configuration value (col. 6, line 65-col. 7, line 15 and col. 10, lines 21-48, but fails to explicitly teach where second guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second guide information.

However, Eyer further teaches region ID and name which identifies the region transmitting the second program guide information.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Eyer to provide data identifying a service network transmitting the second program guide to enable the head end system or receiving station to identify and manage the EPGs that are received from the various EPG sources or service network as desired.

Claim 26 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

Claim 27 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 3.

Claim 28-29 is met as previously discussed with respect to claims 4 and 5.

Claim 30 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

Claim 31 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 7.

As to claim 33, note the **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, disclose method and apparatus for delivering an Interactive Program Guide (IPG) data (global and local

programming services) to integrated receiver-decoders (IRDs) in a decoder population via a cable or satellite network and further disclose in a broadcasting system having a first a first service network (National or Global Network) broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information (National or Global-IPG data) describing at least a portion of the first set of program material, and a second service network (Regional or Local Network) broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information (Regional or Local-IPG data) describing at least a portion of the second set of program material, where the first broadcast signal and second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiver station (IRD 130) receiving the first signal, comprising:

the claimed "means for mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal" is met by IPG Translator (IPG-Trans) 225 (figs. 1, 4, col. 5, lines 44-67 and col. 8, lines 6-32), note that CATV 140 (col. 6, line 23-31) includes IPG-Trans 220 a headend system, which a means for receives and mapping National or Global-IPG data "first program guide information" and Regional or Local-IPG data "second program guide information" and uses channel grouping criteria, such as common source, field of interest, etc., (col. 6, lines 6-22 and col. 15, line 54-col. 16, line 3) to form Bundles "portion" of Global-IPG data and "portion" of Local-IPG data and maps portion of the Global-IPG and Local-IPG to service channels "first service channel" and "second service channel" (col. 17, line

49-col. 18, line 11) of transport stream "first broadcast signal" (fig. 4, col. 10, lines 10-31, Bundles 400-415 and col. 12, line 31-col. 13, line 1+) and the claimed "means for transmitting..." is met by Transmitter 110 (fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 47-52), which is a means for transmitting the broadcast signal to IRDs 130 "receiving station," that allows the IRDs 130 to recover only IPG-data for its region (col. 8, lines 57-63), note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all logically offset by the difference between assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11), Furthermore Global-IPG and Local-IPG data are offset by duplicative channels (col. 10, lines 33-38), by a 24-bit number (col. 15, line 66-col. 16, line 3) and also by gaps in the program schedules (col. 18, lines 15-44).

Eyer, further teaches where the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between data and IRD 130 "receiver station" configuration value (col. 6, line 65-col. 7, line 15 and col. 10, lines 21-48, but fails to explicitly teach where second guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second guide information.

However, Eyer further teaches region ID and name which identifies the region transmitting the second program guide information.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Eyer to provide data identifying a service

network transmitting the second program guide to enable the head end system or receiving station to identify and manage the EPGs that are received from the various EPG sources or service network as desired.

Claim 34 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

Claim 35 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 3.

Claim 36-37 is met as previously discussed with respect to claims 4 and 5.

Claim 38 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

Claim 39 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 7.

As to claim 41, note the **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, disclose method and apparatus for delivering an Interactive Program Guide (IPG) data (global and local programming services) to integrated receiver-decoders (IRDs) in a decoder population via a cable or satellite network and further disclose in a broadcasting system having a first a first service network (National or Global Network) broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program material and first program guide information (National or Global-IPG data) describing at least a portion of the first set of program material, and a second service network (Regional or Local Network) broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material and second program guide information (Regional or Local-IPG data) describing at least a portion of the second set of program material, where the first broadcast signal and second broadcast signal each include service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, an apparatus for obtaining at least a portion of the second program guide information via the first signal, comprising:

the claimed "means for receiving the first signal..." is met by IRD 130 (fig. 1, 4, col. 5, lines 44-67, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38), which is a means for receiving a data stream "first signal" of National or Global-IPG data "first program guide information" transmitted in Bundles "portion" on Global-IPG data service channel;

the claimed "a second service channel..." is met by Regional or Local-IPG data service channel, which transmits Bundles "portion" of Local-IPG data "second program guide information" (col. 5, lines 44-67, col. 9, lines 24-39 and col. 10, lines 10-38) and the claimed "means for presentation..." is met by Display 195 (figs. 1, 3, col. 7, lines 51-56 and col. 8, lines 39-46), which presents the Global-IPG data and the Local-IPG data to the subscriber (col. 8, lines 39-63), note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all logically offset by the difference between assigned service channel identification numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11), Furthermore Global-IPG and Local-IPG data are offset by duplicative channels (col. 10, lines 33-38), by a 24-bit number (col. 15, line 66-col. 16, line 3) and also by gaps in the program schedules (col. 18, lines 15-44).

Eyer, further teaches where the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between data and IRD 130 "receiver station" configuration value (col. 6, line 65-col. 7, line 15 and col. 10, lines

21-48, but fails to explicitly teach where second guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second guide information.

However, Eyer further teaches region ID and name which identifies the region transmitting the second program guide information.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Eyer to provide data identifying a service network transmitting the second program guide to enable the head end system or receiving station to identify and manage the EPGs that are received from the various EPG sources or service network as desired.

Claim 42 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

Claim 43 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 3.

Claim 44-45 is met as previously discussed with respect to claims 4 and 5.

Claim 46 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 6.

Claim 47 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 7.

As to claim 49, note the **Eyer et al** reference figures 1 and 2, disclose method and apparatus for delivering an Interactive Program Guide (IPG) data (global and local programming services) to integrated receiver-decoders (IRDs) in a decoder population via a cable or satellite network and further disclose in a broadcasting system having a first service network (National or Global Network) broadcasting a first signal having a first set of program guide information (National or Global IPG) describing at least a portion of the first set of program material, and second service network (Regional or Local Network) broadcasting a second signal having a second set of program material

and second program guide (Regional or Local IPG) describing at least a portion of the second set of program material, where the first broadcast signal (National or Global) and the second broadcast signal (Regional or Local) each includes a service channels uniquely described by a service channel identifier, a method of providing at least a portion of the second program guide information to a receiving station receiving the first signal, comprising the steps of:

the claimed "mapping at least a portion of the first program guide information to a first service channel of the first broadcast signal" is met by IPG Translator (IPG-Trans) 225 (figs. 1, 4, col. 5, lines 44-67 and col. 8, lines 6-32), note that CATV 140 (col. 6, line 23-31) includes IPG-Trans 220 a headend system, which receives National or Global-IPG data "first program guide information" and Regional or Local-IPG data "second program guide information" and uses channel grouping criteria, such as common source, field of interest, etc., (col. 6, lines 6-22 and col. 15, line 54-col. 16, line 3) to form Bundles "portion" of Global-IPG data and "portion" of Local-IPG data and maps portion of the Global-IPG and Local-IPG to service channels "first service channel" and "second service channel" (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11) of transport stream "first broadcast signal" (fig. 4, col. 10, lines 10-31, Bundles 400-415 and col. 12, line 31-col. 13, line 1+) and transmits the broadcast signal to IRDs 130 "receiving station," that allows the IRDs 130 to recover only IPG-data for its region (col. 8, lines 57-63), note that the service channels, such as data service channel, text service channel, etc., including Global-IPG data service channel or Local-IPG data service channels are all logically offset by the difference between assigned service channel identification

numbers or values, which enables data, associated with a particular services channel to be received, stored or processed accordingly (col. 17, line 49-col. 18, line 11), Furthermore Global-IPG and Local-IPG data are offset by duplicative channels (col. 10, lines 33-38), by a 24-bit number (col. 15, line 66-col. 16, line 3) and also by gaps in the program schedules (col. 18, lines 15-44).

Eyer, further teaches where the first program guide information and the second program guide information is merged according to a comparison between data and IRD 130 "receiver station" configuration value (col. 6, line 65-col. 7, line 15 and col. 10, lines 21-48, but fails to explicitly teach where second guide information includes data identifying the service network transmitting the second guide information.

However, Eyer further teaches region ID and name which identifies the region transmitting the second program guide information.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the system of Eyer to provide data identifying a service network transmitting the second program guide to enable the head end system or receiving station to identify and manage the EPGs that are received from the various EPG sources or service network as desired.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bayrakeri et al (6,904,610) disclose server-centric customized interactive program guide in an interactive TV environment.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300.**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)**. If you would like assistance from a **USPTO Customer Service Representative** or access to the automated information system, **call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000**.

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